IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for ~~automatically~~ invoking a plurality of
functional modules <u>configured to process a query result retrieved from a database</u> from
within an application, comprising:
      providing an interface for specifying a <u>the</u> plurality of functional modules;
      providing a configuration file containing information regarding invocation of the
functional modules<u>, wherein the configuration file specifies at least an input field of the
query result required by at least one of the functional modules and at least one output
field produced by one of the plurality of functional modules</u>; ~~and~~
            <u>receiving the query result retrieved from the database;</u>
      invoking the plurality of functional modules <u>to process the query result</u> in a
manner determined according to information retrieved from the configuration file<u>; and</u>
            <u>returning the processed query result to the application.</u>

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the interface is a graphic user
interface utilized by users to specify functional modules.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the interface allows an external
application to specify functional modules.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein:
      the interface is utilized to specify a single multi-analysis functional module used
to invoke the plurality of functional modules; and
      the configuration file contains information relating the plurality of functional
modules to the multi-analysis functional module.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration file contains an

explicit sequence in which the plurality of functional modules should be executed.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein:

the configuration file contains information indicating one or more parameters required for invoking each of the functional modules; and

invoking the plurality of functional modules comprises invoking only those functional modules whose one or more required parameters are available.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the plurality of functional modules in a manner determined according to information retrieved from the configuration file comprises invoking at least two functional modules in parallel.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration file is in an extensible markup language (XML) format.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the functional modules is a plug-in component of the application.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the functional modules is an external application.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A method for ~~automatically~~ invoking a plurality of specified functional modules <u>configured to process a query result retrieved from a database</u> from within an application comprising:

(a) obtaining a set of one or more parameters required for invoking the specified functional modules<u>, wherein at least one of the one or more parameters comprises a field of the query result;</u>

(b) invoking one or more of the specified functional modules whose required parameters are available in a result set collection<u>, wherein the result set collection is configured to store the query result and an output of each of the plurality of functional</u>

modules, as each of the plurality of functional modules is invoked to process the query result;

(c) obtaining a result set in response to invoking the one or more functional modules;

(d) adding the result set to the result set collection; ~~and~~

(e) repeating steps (a) - (d) until all the specified functional modules have been executed; and

(f) returning the processed query result to the application.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein the result set collection comprises results received in response to issuing a query.

13.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, wherein an interface is used to specify a plurality of functional modules by specifying a multi-analysis functional module.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein obtaining the set of one or more parameters required for invoking the specified functional modules comprises retrieving information from a configuration file relating the multi-analysis functional module to the specified functional modules.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed, performs operations for ~~automatically~~ invoking and integrating a plurality of functional modules configured to process a query result retrieved from a database from within an application, comprising:

providing an interface for specifying the plurality of functional modules;

providing a configuration file containing information regarding invocation of the functional modules, wherein the configuration file specifies at least an input field of the query result required by at least one of the functional modules and at least one output field produced by one of the plurality of functional modules; and

receiving the query result retrieved from the database;

invoking the plurality of functional modules <u>to process the query result</u> in a manner determined according to information retrieved from the configuration file<u>; and returning the processed query result to the application</u>.

16.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 15, wherein:

the interface is utilized to specify a single multi-analysis functional module used to invoke the plurality of functional modules; and

the configuration file contains information relating the plurality of functional modules to the multi-analysis functional module.

17.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 15, wherein the configuration file contains an explicit sequence in which the plurality of functional modules should be executed.

18.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 15, wherein:

the configuration file contains information indicating one or more parameters required for invoking each of the functional modules; and

invoking the plurality of functional modules comprises invoking only those functional modules whose one or more required parameters are available.

19.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 15, wherein the configuration file is in an extensible markup language (XML) format.

20.   (Currently Amended)   A system ~~for automatically invoking and integrating a plurality of functional modules~~ comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of functional modules<u>, wherein each of the plurality of functional modules is configured to process a query result retrieved from a database</u>;

a configuration file containing information regarding execution of the functional modules, <u>wherein the configuration file specifies at least an input field of the query result required by at least one of the functional modules and at least one output field produced by one of the plurality of functional modules</u>; and

an application from which the functional modules are accessible, wherein the application which, when executed by the processor, is configured to provide an interface for specifying a set of functional modules and execute the functional modules <u>to process the query result</u> in a manner determined according to information retrieved from the configuration file <u>and</u>

<u>present a user of the application with the processed query result</u>.

21.   (Original)   The system of claim 20 wherein the application is a query building application.

22.   (Original)   The system of claim 20, wherein at least one of the plurality of functional modules is a plug-in component of the application.

23.   (Original)   The system of claim 20, wherein at least one of the plurality of functional modules is an external application.

24.   (Original)   The system of claim 20, wherein:

the interface is utilized to specify a single multi-analysis functional module used to invoke the specified set of functional modules; and

the configuration file contains information relating the specified set of functional modules to the multi-analysis functional module.

25.   (Original)   The system of claim 20, wherein the configuration file contains an explicit sequence in which the specified set of functional modules should be executed.

26.   (Original)   The system of claim 20, wherein:

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the configuration file contains information indicating one or more parameters required for invoking each of the specified set of functional modules; and

invoking the specified set of functional modules comprises invoking only those functional modules whose one or more required parameters are available.

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